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EXAMINER

CHU, KING M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3788

NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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03/31/2011

ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/583,362

Applicant(s)

LANCESSEUR ET AL.

Examiner

KING M. CHU

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 November 2010.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-28 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-28 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date See Continuation Sheet.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

Continuation of Attachment(s) 3). Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08), Paper No(s)/Mail Date :06/19/2006, 03/26/2009, 05/18/2009, 08/21/2009, 10/28/2009, 07/13/2010, 08/12/2010, 11/03/2010.

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

1. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Drawings

2. The file as it currently exists does not include a copy of the drawings except in the form of the publication of the parent application. Submission of duplicate drawings from the parent application are required.
3. The drawings from the publication of the parent application are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the “open cells” in Claim 5 must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.
4. The drawings from the publication of the parent application are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they include the following reference character(s) not mentioned in the description: 16.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as “amended.” If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must

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be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action.

The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

5. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

6. Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. In reference to Claim 5, Applicant recites the packaging means of ambient air treatment agents is provided with "open cells" which is not found in the specification. Appropriate action is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. Claims 1-6 and 8-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Guillot (5,464,112) in view of Sacherer et al. (Sacherer 2003/0029739) and further in view of Weissman (4,591,078).

In reference to Claim 1, the claim language “means” that is present throughout Claim 1, is treated as NOT invoking 35 U.S.C. 112, sixth paragraph. See MPEP 2181.

In reference to Claim 1

Guillot discloses a device (Figure 1) capable of being used for leak-tight sealing of packaging containers for products sensitive to ambient pollutants and for purification treatment of ambient air in these packaging containers, with controlled amplitude of the opening angle and mechanically assisted opening and closing, to be installed on the tubular casing of the access opening to said container, said device being made of thermoplastic polymer materials (col. 2, ll. 52-55) and comprising:

- a leak-tight sealing means (comprising 12 and 24) of the access opening of the container,

- a means of assembly (24) of the sealing means capable for use with a tubular casing of the access opening,

- a connection means (28) between the sealing means and the assembly means,

- a first opening tamper resistance means (68), placed between the sealing means and the assembly means, wherein said resistance means comprises:

a) a male type stopper-cap-cap (12) as the sealing means of the opening in the tubular casing of the container, composed of an upper end wall (52) on which a first coaxial peripheral wall (58) is mounted capable of setting up a leak-tight contact with the inner surface of the tubular casing of the container access opening, and

b) as assembly means of the sealing means, an assembly ring (24) capable of being mounted on the tubular casing of the container access opening, the inner face of which is provided with a means of attachment (30 and 32) of the outer face of the casing,

d) as first opening tamper resistance means (68), a peripheral series of connecting micro-dots (74) or a peripheral strip to be torn off, or a combination of these two means placed between the sealing means and the assembly means,

Guillot discloses the claimed invention as discussed above with the exception of the following claimed limitations that are taught by Sacherer:

a leak-tight sealing means (comprising 12 and 24 of Guillot) of the access opening of the container, with a means of packaging an ambient air treatment agent on its inner face (means comprising 5, 6, 10, and 11 of Sacherer);

a second wall (5) internal to the first wall (7), forming the packaging means for the ambient air treatment agents.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Guillot in view of Sacherer so that a second wall and an ambient air treatment agent of Sacherer are added internal to the first wall of Guillot in order to absorb moisture that

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unavoidably gets in during open/closing operation of a container, as taught by Sacherer (col. 1, ll. 28-30).

Guillot-Sacherer discloses the claimed invention as discussed above with the exception of the following claimed limitations that are taught by Weissman:

c) as connection means (60) between the assembly means and the sealing means, two distinct hinges (62) and (63) at a spacing from each other,

e) a mechanical assistance means (64) for opening and closing and controlling the amplitude of the opening angle of the sealing means, placed in the space located between the two hinges and simultaneously connected to the stopper-cap (12 of Guillot) through a film hinge (top part of 64 at 66), the section through the said mechanical assistance means being in the form of a bracket (see L-shaped bracket in Figure 4).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Guillot-Sacherer in view of Weissman so that the connection means (28 of Guillot) is modified to have three hinges in order to provide spring tension in order to facilitate opening/closing of the lid, as taught by Weissman (col. 3, ll. 16-20).

Guillot-Sacherer in view of Weissman discloses the claimed invention as discussed above with the exception of the following claimed limitations: another film hinge to the attachment ring fastening the device onto the casing.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Guillot-Sacherer-Weissman so that a duplicate hinge is provided at the connection between 64 and the body of the attachment ring in order to further facilitate open/close

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operations since mere duplication of parts has no patentable significance unless a new and unexpected result is produced, *In re Harza*, 274 F.2d 669, 124 USPQ 378 (CCPA 1960).

In reference to Claim 2

Guillot-Sacherer-Weissman discloses the claimed invention as discussed above for claim 1 with and Sacherer further teaches:

The cross-section of the first coaxial peripheral wall (7) of the sealing means capable of setting up the leak-tight contact with the inner surface of the tubular casing of the opening of the container includes a peripheral swelling (8) developing on an outer face thereof (see Figure 1 of Sacherer).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Guillot-Sacherer-Weissman so that a peripheral swelling is provided on an outer face of the peripheral wall of Guillot in order to achieve high pressing-on force to provide good tightness, as taught by Sacherer (col. 1, ll. 58-60).

In reference to Claim 3

Guillot-Sacherer-Weissman discloses the claimed invention as discussed above for claim 2 with and Sacherer further teaches:

That the outer peripheral swelling (8) of the first wall is capable of being deformed when in contact with the inner wall of the tubular casing of the opening to increase the contact surface area between these two walls and to reinforce the leak-tightness (col. 1, ll. 53-58).

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It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Guillot-Sacherer-Weissman so that the peripheral swelling of the first wall is capable of being deformed for reasons provide in claim 2.

In reference to Claim 4

Guillot-Sacherer-Weissman discloses the claimed invention as discussed above for claim 2 with and Sacherer further teaches:

That the packing means of ambient air treatment agents, placed on the inner face of the stopper-cap cap is tubular (see element 5, cylindrically shaped wall, col. 3, ll. 26-28).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Guillot-Sacherer-Weissman so that the packing means is tubular, for reasons stated in claim 1.

In reference to Claim 5

Guillot-Sacherer-Weissman discloses the claimed invention as discussed above for claim 2 with and Sacherer further teaches: that the packaging means of ambient air treatment agents is provided with open cells (cell to the interior of 5 and cell to the exterior of 5) each capable of containing a treatment agent or a mix of treatment agents.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Guillot-Sacherer-Weissman so that open cells are provided, for reasons stated in claim 1.

In reference to Claim 6

Guillot-Sacherer-Weissman discloses the claimed invention as discussed above for claim 1 with and Sacherer further teaches: wherein the packaging means of ambient

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air treatment agents, contains treatment agents capable of eliminating gaseous pollutants, and particularly water vapour (col. 2, ll. 42-55), oxygen (O₂), ammonia (NH₃), alcohols, aldehydes, ketones, sulphur dioxide (SO₂), hydrogen sulphide (H₂S), mercaptans, alkenes particularly including ethylene, alkynes, carbon dioxide (CO₂), carbon monoxide (CO), nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), alkanes and particularly methane (CH₄), halogens and particularly fluorine, and/or (interpreted as or) bacteria present in the ambient air.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Guillot-Sacherer-Weissman so that a treatment agent is provided, in order to absorb moisture, as taught by Sacherer (col. 1, ll. 27-30).

In reference to Claim 8

Guillot-Sacherer-Weissman discloses the claimed invention as discussed above for claim 1 with and Guillot further teaches that the stopper-cap is provided with a gripping visor (56).

In reference to Claim 9

Guillot-Sacherer-Weissman discloses the claimed invention as discussed above for claim 1 with and Guillot further teaches that the stopper-cap is provided with a child opening safety system (68).

In reference to Claim 10

Guillot-Sacherer-Weissman discloses the claimed invention as discussed above for claim 9 with and Guillot further teaches that the safety system is install adjacent to the visor (see Figure 1).

In reference to Claim 11

Guillot-Sacherer-Weissman discloses the claimed invention as discussed above for claim 9 with and Guillot further teaches that the opening safety system is a flexible strip (comprising 70 and 72) surrounding the visor (see Figure 6) and forming an integral part of the assembly means (see 74 attached to 24 in Figure 6).

In reference to Claim 12

Guillot-Sacherer-Weissman discloses the claimed invention as discussed above for claim 1 with and Guillot further teaches that the inner face of the stopper-cap outer wall and the outer face of the outer wall of the tubular casing of the access opening of the container are provided with a click fit means (in as much as the applicant has claimed the click fit means, the outer wall 58 of Guillot provides a click/tight fit with a container when snapped in place as seen in Figure 4).

In reference to Claim 13

Guillot-Sacherer-Weissman discloses the claimed invention as discussed above for claim 1 with and Guillot further teaches that the assembly means of the stopper-cap is an attachment ring capable of being mounted on the tubular casing of the access opening, provided with a click fit means (30 and 32) on it's inner face capable of facing the outer face of the tubular casing, on which there is also a click fit means.

In reference to Claim 14

Guillot-Sacherer-Weissman discloses the claimed invention as discussed above for claim 1 with and Guillot further teaches that the assembly means is capable of being force fitted on the tubular casing (see Figure 4).

In reference to Claim 15

Guillot-Sacherer-Weissman discloses the claimed invention as discussed above for claim 1 with and Guillot further teaches that the assembly means is capable of being mounted by bonding on the tubular casing (see Figure 4, via 30 and 32).

In reference to Claim 16

Guillot-Sacherer-Weissman discloses the claimed invention as discussed above for claim 1 with and Guillot further teaches the outer peripheral surface of the tubular casing (the tubular casing is not claimed) of the access opening to the container to be sealed comprises two projecting peripheral collars, separated from each other by creating a groove with an approximately rectangular shaped section, the thickness of the tubular casing inside the groove is not modified, and the attachment ring (24 of Guillot) is capable of being force fitted into the said groove.

In reference to Claim 17

Guillot-Sacherer-Weissman discloses the claimed invention as discussed above for claim 1 with and Guillot further teaches a peripheral groove that may have an approximately rectangular, hemispherical or semi-elliptical shaped section, is made recessed within the thickness of the wall of the tubular casing of the container (the container is not claimed), the thickness of the tubular casing inside the groove being modified, and being less than the thickness of the tubular casing and the attachment ring (24 of Guillot) is capable of being force fitted into the said groove.

In reference to Claim 18

Guillot-Sacherer-Weissman discloses the claimed invention as discussed above for claim 16 with and Guillot further teaches the inner surface of the attachment ring (24)

is provided with click fit means (30 and 32) which, when the said attachment ring capable of being force fitted into the groove of the container, itself equipped with complementary click fit means, fits into the corresponding click fit means so as to block any rotation or translation of the stopper with respect to the container (the click fit means 30 and 32 are capable of performing the claimed functions).

In reference to Claim 19

Guillot-Sacherer-Weissman discloses the claimed invention as discussed above for claim 18 with and Guillot further teaches that the click fit means on the inner surface of the attachment ring and on the inner surface of the groove in the container are splines or slots (30 and 32 are splines, a flexible piece of material).

In reference to Claim 20

Guillot-Sacherer-Weissman discloses the claimed invention as discussed above for claim 1 with and Sacherer further teaches that the two hinges of the connecting means are film hinges (see Figure 3).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Guillot-Sacherer-Weissman so that film hinges are provided for reasons stated in claim 1.

In reference to Claim 21

Guillot-Sacherer-Weissman discloses the claimed invention as discussed above for claim 20 and Weissman further teaches that each film hinge is formed from two parts forming brackets (when hinge 62 and 63 are in the closed position, the hinges will obviously have an axis of rotation, at the middle of the film hinges and is made from plastics, polyethylene, polypropylene or polystyrene, col. 3, ll. 6-10) connected together

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by a polymer film action as an axis of rotation to enable opening and/or closing cycles of the sealing means, one of the parts being integrated into said sealing means and the other part being integrated into the assembly means (see Figures 3 and 4).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Guillot-Sacherer-Weissman so that the hinges are provided in the manner claimed above for reasons stated in Claim 20.

In reference to Claim 22

Guillot-Sacherer-Weissman discloses the claimed invention as discussed above for claim 1 with the exception of the following claimed limitations: the amplitude of the opening angle controlled by the mechanical assistance means is not more than 160°.

Weissman teaches that the amplitude of the opening angled controlled by the mechanical assistance means is of a varied degree in Figure 4.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Guillot-Sacherer-Weissman so that the amplitude of the opening is not more than 160° since it is not inventive to discover the optimum or workable ranges by routine experimentation.

In re Aller, 220 F.2d 454, 456, 105 USPQ 233, 235 (CCPA 1955).

In reference to Claim 23

Guillot-Sacherer-Weissman discloses the claimed invention as discussed above for claim 1 with the exception of the following claimed limitations: the angular deformation of the mechanical assistance means in the form of a bracket between a closed position and an open position is between 0° and not more than 30°.

Weissman teaches that the angular deformation of the mechanical assistance means in the form of a bracket between a closed position and an open position is of a varied degree in Figure 4.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Guillot-Sacherer-Weissman so that the angular deformation of the mechanical assistance means in the form of a bracket between a closed position and an open position is between 0° and not more than 30° since it is not inventive to discover the optimum or workable ranges by routine experimentation. In re Aller, 220 F.2d 454, 456, 105 USPQ 233, 235 (CCPA 1955).

In reference to Claim 24

Guillot-Sacherer-Weissman discloses the claimed invention as discussed above for claim 1 and Guillot further teaches that the device is made from thermoplastic polymer composition selected from the group consisting of polyethylenes (PE), **polypropylenes** (PP, col. 2, ll. 52-55), ethylene / propylene copolymers and blends of them, polyamides (PA), polystyrenes (PS), acrylonitrile-butadiene- styrene (ABS) copolymers, styrene-acrylonitrile (SAN) copolymers, polyvinyl chlorides (PVC), polycarbonates (PC), polymethyl methacrylate (PMMA), and polyethylene terephthalates (PET) used alone or mixed.

In reference to Claim 25

Guillot-Sacherer-Weissman discloses the claimed invention as discussed above for claim 24 with the exception of the following claimed limitations: at least one natural or synthetic thermoplastic elastomer is associated with the thermoplastic compositions, the elastomer used being selected from the group consisting of natural rubber or synthetic

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rubber type elastomers, and rubbers based on mono-olefins, diolefin rubbers, rubbers based on condensation products, thermoplastic rubbers, silicones, styrenic rubbers, styrene- butadiene-styrene (SBS) and styrene-isoprene-styrene (SIS).

However Guillot further teaches that thermoplastic materials maybe used to make the closure cap.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Guillot-Sacherer-Weissman so that a specific type of thermoplastic material is used in the construction since the selection of a known material based on its suitability for its intended purpose was an obvious extension of prior art, *In re Leshin*, 227 F.2d 197, 125 USPQ 416 (CCPA 1960). Furthermore, the Examiner takes OFFICIAL NOTICE that the materials claimed above were well known materials to be used for the claimed device.

In reference to Claim 26

Guillot-Sacherer-Weissman discloses the claimed invention as discussed above for claim 1 and Guillot further teaches that the device is made in a single part according to plastics methodologies (col. 2, ll. 52-55).

In reference to Claim 27

Guillot-Sacherer-Weissman discloses the claimed invention as discussed above for claim 1 and Guillot further teaches an obvious method for leak-tight sealing and ambient air purification treatment of packaging containers for products sensitive to gaseous pollutants comprising of utilizing a device according to claim 1 (the modified Guillot-Sacherer-Weissman can perform the obvious use as claimed by the applicant).

In reference to Claim 28

Guillot-Sacherer-Weissman discloses the claimed invention as discussed above for claim 24 with the exception of the following claimed limitations: at least one natural or synthetic thermoplastic elastomer is associated with the thermoplastic compositions, the elastomer being at least one selected from the group composed consisting of isobutene / isoprene polymers, ethylene vinyl acetate (EVA), ethylene-propylene (EPR), ethylene-propylene-diene (EPDM), ethylene-acrylic esters (EMA-EEA), fluorinated polymers, polybutadienes, styrene-butadiene (SBR) copolymers, polyester, polyurethane, thermoplastic rubbers, silicones, styrenic rubbers, styrene-butadiene-styrene (SBS) and styrene-isoprene-styrene (SIS).

However Guillot further teaches that thermoplastic materials maybe used to make the closure cap.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Guillot-Sacherer-Weissman so that a specific type of thermoplastic material is used in the construction since the selection of a known material based on its suitability for its intended purpose was an obvious extension of prior art, *In re Leshin*, 227 F.2d 197, 125 USPQ 416 (CCPA 1960). Furthermore, the Examiner takes OFFICIAL NOTICE that the materials claimed above were well known materials to be used for the claimed device.

9. Claim 7 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Guillot (5,464,112) in view of Sacherer et al. (Sacherer 2003/0029739) and further in view of Weissman (4,591,078) and further in view of Taskis et al. (Taskis 5,894,949).

In reference to Claim 7

Guillot-Sacherer-Weissman discloses the claimed invention as discussed above for claim 6 with the exception of the following claimed limitations that are taught by Taskis: when the pollutant is water vapour, the treatment agent is selected from the group consisting of silica gels and molecular sieves in powdery form or deposited on a powdery support (see col. 2, ll. 57-61).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Guillot-Sacherer-Weissman and further in view of Taskis so that either silica gels or molecular sieves are provided in a powdery form in order to absorb moisture (col. 2, ll. 57-61).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to KING M. CHU whose telephone number is (571)270-7428. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 9AM - 6PM EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ehud Gartenberg can be reached on (517)272-4828. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/J. Gregory Pickett/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3728

/KING M CHU/
Examiner, Art Unit 3788